

Articles This Month

full articles available at www.NebraskaWorkforce.com/trends.htm

Career Exploration in the Classroom

by Rebecca Harms

As technology has changed both the way businesses hire employees and the way in which job seekers locate potential employers, it only makes sense that schools now incorporate this new technology to prepare students for the workforce. There are many ways to incorporate labor market data into the classroom, and with nearly all information available at www.NebraskaWorkforce.com, it is easily accessible to both teachers and students.

This article includes ideas for use with lesson plans and suggestions for homework assignments which set out clear and easy-to-understand instructions for accessing occupation, wage, and other labor-related information on the Workforce Development Website.

Brain Drain? Graduate Outcomes for the University of Nebraska at Kearney

by Mary Findlay

Do recent graduates remain in Nebraska? How much do recent graduates earn, by major and degree? Are graduates in certain majors more likely to work in the state? These and other questions are answered in the following article.

What we know is that 69% of the 2003–2004 University of Nebraska at Kearney graduates were employed in Nebraska in the first quarter of 2005. Overall, 65% of bachelor's degree graduates were found working in Nebraska, while 84% of those with a master's degree or higher were employed here.

Bachelor's degree graduates in the operations management and supervision field of study had the highest estimated annual earnings of \$35,437. The business administration and management, general field of study had the highest number (150) of bachelor's degree graduates and the highest number (111) of people working in Nebraska. This information comes from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

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_____ Hot Jobs

1: Telemarketers

2: Helpers — Production Workers

3: Customer Service Representatives

4: Stock Clerks and Order Fillers

5: Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer

Based on job postings at Nebraska Workforce Development Career Center offices.



Dave Heineman, Governor Fernando Lecuona III, Commissioner

Industry Developments

By Bridget Allison, Mary Dezort, Jodie Meyer, and Janet Oenbring

Overall, statewide non-farm industry employment growth has remained consistently higher this year than it was in the past five years. Preliminary estimates of statewide July employment (953,966), based on a statewide sample of 4,909 Nebraska businesses, indicate the serviceproviding sector had largest July '05-July '06 increases in Education and Health Services, which added 4,234 jobs; Professional and Business Services, which added 3,094 jobs; and Leisure & Hospitality, which added 3,016 jobs. Most jobs were lost in Natural Resources and Construction (-1,379 jobs), mainly in the Construction of Buildings sub-sector (-1,230 jobs or -12.0%).

In the Lincoln Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), the largest over-the-year increases were in Professional and Business Services (+1,508 jobs or +8.6%) and Education and Health Services (+981 jobs or +4.2%). The largest over-the-year decrease occurred in Manufacturing, with a loss of 443 jobs.

In the Omaha MSA, the largest over-the-year increases came from Leisure and Hospitality (+3,515 jobs or +7.9%), Government (+2,817 jobs or +4.9%), and Education and Health Services (+2,617 jobs or +4.1%). The two industries in Omaha to lose over-the-year employment were Natural Resources and Construction (-993 jobs or -3.6%) and Information (-603 jobs or -4.5%).

Natural Resources and Construction

Industry employment stood at 49,895 in July. With summer the prime time for construction, statewide employment increased slightly in July (+817 jobs or +1.7%), although over the year the industry lost 1,379 jobs.

In the Lincoln MSA, employment hovered around 9,074 in July, although in the past year the Specialty Trade Contractor sector lost 491 jobs or -8.9%. The Omaha MSA employment was 26,308 in July. The annual Omaha MSA employment increased the most in the Building Equipment Contractor sub-sector (+318 jobs or +4.3%), while a noticeable decrease occurred in the Construction of Buildings sub-sector, which lost 1,176 jobs or -24.2%.

Manufacturing

Statewide July employment level was 104,393. The industry is up 2,577 jobs (+2.5%) from July 2005. The Lincoln MSA employment stood at 14,814 in July, which is below the previous two years'. Omaha MSA industry employment increased during the past five months to peak at 33,784 in June and then drop to 33,447 in July.

Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

July employment was 202,805 statewide. Over the year under Wholesale Trade, the Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods is up 1,156 jobs (+6.7%). Likewise under Retail Trade, Gasoline Stations increased the most over the year by adding 584 jobs or 6.4%, but Automobile Dealers lost the most jobs in the same period (-677 jobs or -8.2%). Furthermore, Transportation, Warehouse and Utilities increased employment the most in General Freight Trucking, which added 1,667 jobs (+7.5%).

Information

Statewide employment fell to 19,992 in July. The greatest impact on statewide employment came from the Omaha MSA, where employment fell significantly in the Internet Service

Provider sub-sector, which lost 432 jobs (-7.0%) over the month and 391 jobs (-6.3%) over the year.

Financial Activities

In July, statewide employment rose to 67,332 following the largest over-the-month increase since 1998 (+1.7%). Over the year, employment has risen by 2,435 jobs (+3.8%), and the majority of the July over-the-year increase came from the Finance and Insurance sub-sector, which added 2,027 jobs (+3.7%).

The Lincoln MSA employment reached 13,433 jobs in July, after adding over-the-year increases from 1.8% to 9% each month since July of 2003. The Omaha MSA employment was 37,954 in July.

Professional and Business Services

Statewide employment dropped to 100,341 in July. Over the year, Professional, Scientific and Technical Services increased by 2,675 (+7.3%), with most gains coming from Accounting and Tax Preparation (+1,106 or +25.4%). In Administrative and Support Services, the largest overthe-year gain came from Employment Services (+1,097 or +8.8%), but an over-the-year loss occurred in Business Support Services (-735 or -5.9%).

Over-the-month employment in the Lincoln MSA was unchanged at 19,121, although over-the-year employment grew by 1,508 jobs largely due to increases in both Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (+497 or +6.2%) and Administrative, Support, Waste & Remediation Services (+975 or +13.5%).



July 2006

The Omaha MSA employment was 61,725 in July. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services gained 1,127 jobs (+5.1%) over the year, with Services to Buildings sub-sector gaining 670 jobs (+10.8%), and that helped offset the 358 jobs (-4.1%) the Omaha MSA lost in Business Support Services in addition to losses in other sub-sectors that are not reported at a publishable level of employment.

Educational and Health Services

July employment statewide was 131,926. The July Lincoln MSA employment was 24,319. The Omaha MSA employment was 66,111 after an over-the-year increase of 2,617 jobs (+4.1%).

Leisure and Hospitality

Statewide July employment was 85,160. Leisure and Hospitality decreased slightly statewide and in both MSAs over the month, while gaining 3,016 jobs (+3.7%) over the year statewide, with corresponding increases of 639 jobs (+4.1%) in the Lincoln MSA and 3,515 jobs (+7.9%) in the Omaha MSA. The Lincoln MSA July employment was 16,237, and the Omaha MSA July employment was 47,745.

Other Services

Employment level reached 36,044 in July statewide. The Lincoln MSA employment increased over the year by 381 jobs or 5.2%. Over the year employment in Omaha MSA registered 17,731, which is its highest July level since 1991.

INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
Statewide	Jul-06	Jun-06	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jun-06	Jul-05
NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSTRUCTION						
Residential Building	39.9	36.7			\$13.77	
Non-Residential	40.0	42.8	39.5		\$17.20	
Foundation, Structure & Building Ext.	39.7	41.4			\$17.33	
Building Equipment Contractors	42.3	41.8			\$19.60	
Building Finishing Contractors	39.0	38.8	39.3	\$15.52	\$15.55	\$15.73
MANUFACTURING	41.3	42.5	41.3	\$14.72	\$14.96	\$15.84
DURABLE GOODS	39.6	40.1			\$15.75	
Machinery Manufacturing	37.0	38.4	42.1	\$15.20	\$16.21	\$15.21
NON-DURABLE GOODS	42.9	44.6	40.9	\$14.29	\$14.31	\$16.20
Food Manufacturing	44.8	48.5	40.7	\$15.17	\$15.09	\$17.12
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	42.4	41.5	20.4	¢11.62	¢11.02	£12.00
Building Materials Garden Equip. & Sup.	42.4	41.5			\$11.93	
General Freight Trucking	42.9	41.6	41.7	\$17.66	\$17.45	\$17.70
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	34.5	33.8	33.2	\$16.48	\$16.41	\$16.05
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES	34.8	33.5	33.1	\$14.67	\$14.67	\$14.19
Business Support Services	30.0	30.3	25.8	\$13.20	\$12.27	\$12.18
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	22.4	22.0		*** **	41511	415.00
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	33.4	33.0	32.0	\$16.05	\$16.11	\$15.80
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY						
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION	21.3	22.1	22.7	\$9.67	\$9.30	\$8.54
ACCOMODATION & FOOD SERVICE	20.1	20.1	20.9	\$7.43	\$7.41	\$6.99
Drinking Places (Alcoholic Beverage)	17.9	18.5	17.7	\$7.17	\$7.44	\$8.13
Omaha MSA	Jul-06	Jun-06	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jun-06	Jul-05
NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSTRUCTION	20 5	20.2	42.7	¢22.70	¢22.06	¢20.54
Building Equipment Contractors	38.5	39.3	42.7	\$22.70	\$22.96	\$20.54
MANUFACTURING	42.5	41.9	42.6	\$16.91	\$16.96	\$19.04
DURABLE GOODS	43.1	41.7	44.8	\$18.60	\$18.06	\$16.97
NON-DURABLE GOODS	42.2	42.0	41.4	\$15.99	\$16.38	\$20.29
PROFESSIONAL & PUSINESS SERVICES	25.2	35.0	22.0	¢17.40	¢16.02	¢17.20
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	35.2	33.0	33.9	\$17.49	\$16.93	\$17.59
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES						
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	31.1	30.8	32.3	\$18.41	\$18.38	\$19.36
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	20.0	21.2	21.0	\$8.93	¢0 61	¢7 01
LEISUKE & HUSPITALITY	20.9	21.2	21.8	\$0.95	\$8.64	\$7.84
Lincoln MSA	Jul-06	Jun-06	Jul-05	Jul-06	Jun-06	Jul-05
MANUFACTURING	39.3	41.8			\$15.60	
PROFESSIONAL A RUSSISSE CONTRACTOR	25.	25.6	27.5	420.00	#26 t5	410.21
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	35.1	35.6	37.5	\$20.80	\$20.42	\$18.31

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program MSA: Metropolitan Statistical Area

The Omaha MSA includes Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, and Washington counties in Nebraska and Harrison, Mills, and Pottawattamie counties in Iowa.

The Lincoln MSA includes Lancaster and Seward counties in Nebraska.

Nonfarm Payroll Employment

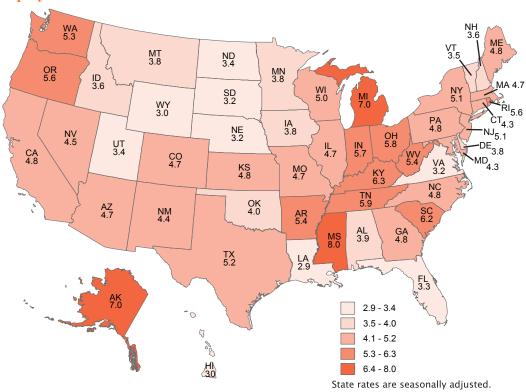
Number of Workers Net Changes From Jul-06 (p) Jun-06 (r) Jul-05 (r) Jun-06 Jul-05 TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT 953,966 963,655 935,972 -9,689 17,994 51,274 **NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSTRUCTION** 49,895 49,078 817 -1,379 47.962 49.785 CONSTRUCTION 47.230 732 -1.823CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS 8,995 9,070 10,225 -75 -1,230-45 4,574 4,619 5,297 -723 Residential Non-Residential 4,421 4,451 4,928 -30 -507 **HEAVY & CIVIL ENGINEERING** 8,003 7,939 7,916 64 87 SPECIALTY TRADE CONTRACTORS 30,964 31,644 743 -680 30,221 Foundation, Structure, & Building Exterior 7,206 7,221 7,502 -15 -296 **Building Equipment Contractors** 13,173 12,618 13,339 555 -166 **Building Finishing Contractors** 6,271 6,265 6,520 6 -249 **MANUFACTURING** 104,393 103,973 101,816 420 2,577 **DURABLE GOODS** 50,259 48,782 -120 50,139 1,357 **Fabricated Metal Products** 8,832 8,756 8,265 76 567 Architectural & Structural Metals 3,653 3,648 3,470 183 105 Machinery Manufacturing 10,185 10,080 9,517 668 Agriculture, Construction, & Mining 5,954 5,935 5,952 19 2 **Computer & Electronic Products** 5,737 5,849 5,771 -112 -34 Transportation Equipment 8,170 -263 8,086 8,349 -84 Motor Vehicle Parts 4,569 4,567 4,406 163 2 Miscellaneous 0 5,114 5,114 4,649 465 **NON-DURABLE GOODS** 540 54,254 53,714 53,034 1,220 33.964 33.916 481 Food 34.445 529 Animal Slaughtering & Processing 25,311 24,827 25,039 484 272 **Printing & Related Support Activities** 5,282 5,348 5,438 -66 -156 **Plastics & Rubber Products** 5,460 5,434 5,587 26 -127 TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, & UTILITIES 202,805 202,411 199,996 394 2,809 42,203 WHOLESALE TRADE 41,243 371 42,574 1,331 Merchant Wholesalers, Durables 19,576 19,553 19,824 23 -248 Merchant Wholesalers, Non-Durables 18,447 18,570 17,291 -123 1,156 106,398 105,808 **RETAIL TRADE** 106,718 -590 -910 Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers 12,140 12,004 12,903 136 -763 Automobile Dealers 7,585 7,468 8,262 117 -677 Building Materials & Garden Equip. & Supplies 10,101 10,238 9,869 -137 232 Food & Beverage Stores 18,505 18,534 18,625 -29 -120 **Grocery Stores** 16,529 16,561 16,529 -32 0 **Gasoline Stations** 9,639 9,641 9,055 -2 584 7,028 Clothing & Clothing Accessories Stores 6,929 6,963 99 65 General Merchandise Stores 20,310 20,576 20,887 -266 -577 -327 **Department Stores** 8,673 8,862 9,000 -189 Other 11,637 11,714 11,887 -77 -250 Miscellaneous Store Retailers 6,562 6,496 6,683 66 -121 Nonstore Retailers 4,321 4,379 4,363 -58 -42 TRANSPORTATION, WAREHOUSE, & UTILITIES 54,423 53,810 52,035 613 2,388 1,715 1,715 1,701 0 14 613 2,374 Transportation & Warehousing 52,708 52,095 50,334 **Rail Transportation** 12,730 12.754 12.124 24 630 Truck Transportation 27.818 27.350 26.304 468 1.514 General Freight Trucking 23,816 23,484 22,149 332 1,667 Specialized Freight Trucking 4,002 3,866 4,155 136 -153 INFORMATION 19,992 20,576 20,315 -584 -323 PUBLISHING INDUSTRIES (Except Internet) 5,264 5,205 59 -54 5,318 INTERNET SVC, WEB SEARCH & DATA PROCESSING 6,372 6,853 6,777 -481 -405

	Number of Workers			Net Changes From		
	Jul-06 (p) Jun-06 (r) Jul-05 (r)		Jun-06 Jul-05			
		.,				
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	67,332	66,914	64,897	418	2,435	
FINANCE & INSURANCE	57,073	56,895	55,046	178	2,027	
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	23,033	22,912	21,952	121	1,081	
Depository Credit Intermediation	14,964	14,873	14,856	91	108	
Securities, Commodity Contracts & Brokerage	4,421	4,499	4,055	-78	366	
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	29,370	29,263	28,737	107	633	
Direct Life, Health & Medical	14,400	14,393	14,663	7	-263	
Agencies, Brokerages & Other	8,825	8,712	8,190	113	635	
REAL ESTATE & RENTAL & LEASING	10,259	10,019	9,851	240	408	
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	100,341	100,799	97,247	-458	3,094	
PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, & TECHNICAL	39,534	39,353	36,859	181	2,675	
Accounting, Tax Preparation, Bookkeeping, & Payroll	5,463	5,651	4,357	-188	1,106	
Architectural, Engineering, & Related	6,018	5,978	5,997	40	21	
Computer Systems Design & Related	8,201	8,177	7,854	24	347	
Other Professional, Scientific & Technical	5,377	5,255	5,061	122	316	
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES & ENTERPRISES	15,171	15,354	14,865	-183	306	
Corporate, Subsidiary, & Regional	14,389	14,585	14,183	-196	206	
ADMINISTRATIVE, SUPPORT, WASTE & REMEDIATION	45,636	46,092	45,523	-456	113	
Employment Services	13,546	13,962	12,449	-416	1,097	
Business Support Services	11,634	11,562	12,369	72	-735	
Services to Buildings & Dwellings	11,287	11,353	10,962	-66	325	
Services to buildings & Dwellings	11,207	11,555	10,902	-00	323	
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	131,926	131,960	127,692	-34	4,234	
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	20,291	20,533	19,665	-242	626	
Colleges, Universities, & Professional Schools	11,753	11,873	11,482	-120	271	
HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	111,635	111,427	108,027	208	3,608	
Ambulatory Health Care Services	31,338	31,294	29,737	44	1,601	
Offices of Physicians	13,635	13,483	13,613	152	22	
Hospitals	40,826	40,779	39,674	47	1,152	
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	27,522	27,171	26,586	351	936	
Social Assistance	11,949	12,183	12,030	-234	-81	
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	85,160	85,707	82,144	-547	3,016	
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, & RECREATION	14,314	14,228	12,607	86	1,707	
Amusement, Gambling & Recreation	9,326	9,105	9,402	221	-76	
ACCOMMODATION & FOOD SERVICES	70,846	71,479	69,537	-633	1,309	
Accommodation	8,558	8,562	8,026	-4	532	
Food Services & Drinking Places	62,288	62,917	61,511	-629	777	
Full-Service Restaurants	25,716	26,084	26,790	-368	-1,074	
Limited-Service Eating Places	29,517	30,027	28,018	-510	1,499	
Drinking Places (Alcoholic Beverage)	4,859	4,699	4,630	160	229	
OTHER SERVICES	36,044	36,324	36,705	-280	-661	
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	10,024	10,034	9,896	-10	128	
PERSONAL & LAUNDRY SERVICE	7,938	8,222	7,951	-284	-13	
RELIGIOUS, GRANTMAKING, CIVIC & PROFESSIONAL	18,082	18,068	18,858	14	-776	
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	156,078	165,913	153,886	-9,835	2,192	
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	16,535	16,239	16,530	296	5	
STATE GOVERNMENT	36,530	37,079	37,380	-549	-850	
Education	18,410	18,909	19,140	-499	-730	
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	103,013	112,595	99,976	-9,582	3,037	
Education	50,480	58,972	46,807	-8,492	3,673	
	23,.03	33,3.2	. 5,557	0,132	5,073	

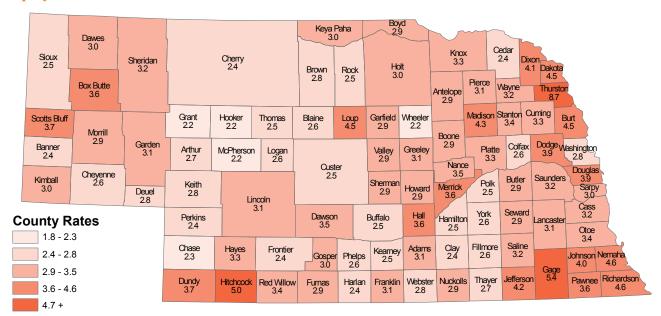
Unemployment Rates

July 2006

National Unemployment Rate: 4.8%



State Unemployment Rate: 3.2%



County rates are not seasonally adjusted.

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program

Nebraska county unemployment rates are not directly comparable to state rates due to seasonal adjustment.

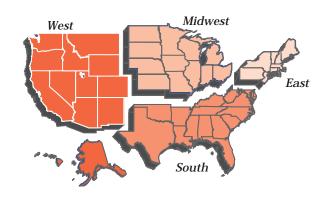
Additional information can be found by logging on to www.dol.state.ne.us/nelmi.htm and clicking on the "Employment/Unemployment" link.

Consumer Price Index

July 2006

		Indexes			% Change From		
	Jul-06	Jun-06	Jul-05	Jun-06	Jul-05		
U.S. All Items	203.5	202.9	195.4	0.3	4.1		
Midwest urban All items	194.6	194.1	188.4	0.3	3.3		
Northeast urban All items	217.5	216.7	207.9	0.4	4.6		
South urban All items	197.0	196.3	189.4	0.4	4.0		
West urban All items	206.7	206.4	199.6	0.1	3.6		

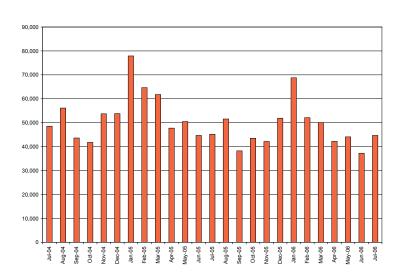
The Consumer Price Index is a measure of the average change in price over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. It is produced monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.



Unemployment Insurance Data

July 2006

Weeks Claimed is the number of weeks of benefits claimed, including weeks for which a waiting period of fixed disqualification period is being served. Interstate claims are counted in the state of residence. (Source: UI Data Summary, Glossary)



Total Weeks Claimed include mandatory one-week waiting periods and weeks claimed where compensation is not awarded due to adjustments other than high earnings.

Continued Weeks Claimed by Industry

	Jul-06	Jun-06	Amount Change	Percent Change
TOTAL	9,411	8,696	715	8%
Ag, Forestry, Hunting	72	39	33	85%
Mining	9	14	-5	-36%
Utilities	15	16	-1	-6%
Construction	555	599	-44	-7%
Manufacturing	1,724	1,344	380	28%
Wholesale Trade	320	316	4	1%
Retail Trade	1,076	1,003	73	7%
Transport & Warehouse	387	388	-1	0%
Information	229	214	15	7%
Finance & Insurance	323	315	8	3%
Real Estate	120	113	7	6%
Professional & Technical	344	330	14	4%
Management	20	21	-1	-5%
Administration & Support	879	759	120	16%
Educational Services	238	240	-2	-1%
Health Care & Social Assist.	969	969	0	0%
Arts & Entertainment	94	97	-3	-3%
Accommodation & Food	724	711	13	2%
Other Services	273	230	43	19%
Public Administration	260	239	21	9%
Unclassified *	780	739	41	6%

* Unable to identify industry at the time claim was filed.

Continued Weeks Claimed by Industry are shown for the week containing the 19th of the month. These claims reflect unemployment experience in the previous week, which includes the 12th of the month.

Claims Activity & Benefit Payments

					Change from Previous Month		Change from Previous Year	
	Jul-06	Jun-06	Jul-05	Net	Percent	Net	Percent	
Initial Claims	5,567	5,000	5,959	567	11.3%	-392	-6.6%	
Weeks Claimed	44,695	37,245	45,171	7,450	20.0%	-476	-1.1%	
First Payments	3,026	2,502	3,008	524	20.9%	18	0.6%	
Final Payments	1,248	1,025	1,289	223	21.8%	-41	-3.2%	
Weeks Compensated	36,200	30,311	37,953	5,889	19.4%	-1,753	-4.6%	
Benefit Payments	\$7,013,966	\$5,392,630	\$8,239,726	\$1,621,336	30.1%	-\$1,225,760	-14.9%	
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$223.44	\$224.14	\$219.12	\$9.29	4.1%	\$14.31	6.5%	

News & Announcements

The Labor Market Regional Review publications contain information on the demographics, labor force, industry employment, and industry and occupational employment projections for the area. The information contained in these publications helps to paint a more complete picture of what is happening in Nebraska's local economies. These publications are helpful to economic developers, local chambers of commerce, business owners, job seekers and other individuals seeking information about the local economy in their area.

The Regional Review publications can be viewed or downloaded in portable document format (pdf). Publications will be added to the website as soon as they are completed. To order printed copies or CD ROMs, please contact the Labor Market Information Center at 402.471.2600 or LMI NE@dol.state.ne.us.

The following Regional Reviews are available as of October, 2006:

- Omaha Consortium (Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties)
- North Platte MSA (Lincoln, Logan and McPherson Counties)
- Scottsbluff MC (Scottsbluff and Banner Counties)
- Fremont MC (Dodge County)

Labor Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) has completed the 2005 benchmark of data. Revised data, for the years 2000 through 2005, has been published and is available on the LMI website.

Credits

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